

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 238227
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. NEUMANN
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

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O 032313Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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PAGE 02 STATE 238227

USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD/JCS
CIA
USIA

UNCLAS STATE 238227

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S ANSWERS TO PRESS QUESTIONS AT UNITED
NATIONS, OCTOBER 3, 1977

FOLLOWING ARE SECRETARY'S ANSWERS TO PRESS QUESTIONS AT
UNITED NATIONS, OCTOBER 3, 1977:

Q. (INAUDIBLE -- CONCERNS ISRAELI REACTION TO U.S.-
SOVIET STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST.)

SECRETARY VANCE: I REGRETTED TO SEE SOME OF THE REACTION
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PAGE 03 STATE 238227

TO THAT BECAUSE I THINK THERE WERE SOME THINGS THAT WERE
VERY POSITIVE IN THERE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF ISRAEL.
THE DEFINITION OF PEACE CONTAINED IN THAT IS, I THINK,
VERY IMPORTANT. IT INDICATED THAT PEACE IS NOT MERELY
THE END OF THE STATE OF BELIGERENCY BUT, IN ADDITION,
IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NORMAL RELATIONS. I THINK THE
FACT THAT BOTH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES
FEEL THAT THIS IS THE CORRECT DEFINITION OF PEACE IS A
VERY IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD, AND I SHOULD THINK IT WOULD
BE ONE THAT WOULD BE GRATIFYING TO THE ISRAELIS.

Q. ISRAEL SEEMS TO BE VERY WORRIED ABOUT YOUR EMBRACING
THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS. IS THIS IN
FACT THE NEW POSITION FOR THE UNITED STATES?

SECRETARY VANCE: I THINK THIS IS THE SAME POSITION WHICH
WE HAVE HAD ALL ALONG. I'M SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AT THE
REACTION TO THAT. I LOOK FORWARD TO TALKING TO THE
ISRAELIS FURTHER ABOUT THAT. I WILL BE MEETING WITH
THEIR FOREIGN MINISTER TONIGHT. I WILL BE DISCUSSING
THE MATTER WITH HIM.

Q. WHAT HAPPENS IF THE PLO EMBRACES THAT STATEMENT? DOES IT IN ANY SENSE QUALIFY THEM FOR PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA INASMUCH AS THESE ARE THE TERMS OF THE CO-CHAIRMEN?

SECRETARY VANCE: THE QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS ONE TO BE DISCUSSED AMONG THE PARTIES. THEY WILL MAKE THE DECISION ON THIS. WE ARE CONTINUING TO DISCUSS IT WITH THEM.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, HOW DO YOU DEFINE THE TERM "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE?"

SECRETARY VANCE: LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN
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PAGE 04 STATE 238227

PEOPLE MEAN ISSUES RELATING TO THE PALESTINIANS WHICH HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

Q. ARE U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS CURVING AT THIS POINT BECAUSE OF THIS?

SECRETARY VANCE: OBVIOUSLY THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF CONCERN AT THIS POINT, BUT I HOPE THIS WILL PASS. WE MUST KEEP IN THE CLOSEST OF TOUCH WITH ISRAEL. WE WILL DO THIS, AND WE HOPE THESE DIFFERENCES WILL BE RESOLVED AS WE MOVE FORWARD.

THANKS VERY MUCH.

Q. THE ISRAELIS SEEM TO THINK ITS A BAD IDEA TO HAVE THE RUSSIANS BACK IN SO ACTIVELY AT THIS POINT. DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT?

SECRETARY VANCE: NO, I DON'T AGREE WITH THAT. I THINK ITS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THEY AS CO-CHAIRMEN AND OURSELVES SHOULD BE WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER TO TRY AND RESOLVE THE ISSUES THAT REMAIN, SO THAT WE CAN MOVE FORWARD TO A RECONVENING IN GENEVA.

Q. IS IT CRUCIAL NOW IN YOUR VIEW FOR THE PLO TO ACT IN SOME WAY TO ACCEPT AT LEAST CONDITIONALLY ACCEPT

ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST?

SECRETARY VANCE: WE HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT IT WAS NOT ONLY DESIRABLE BUT NECESSARY THAT THE PLO SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST.

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PAGE 05 STATE 238227

PRESS: THANK YOU. CHRISTOPHER

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